



## DECLARATION CLAIMING INDEPENDENT INVENTOR STATUS

I, Samuel Shiber, hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent & Trademark Office in regard to the invention entitled **Vessel Cleaner** described in the enclosed specification.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and I am under no obligation under contract of law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under CFR 1.9(e).

There is no person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract of law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due under the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28 (b)). I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

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Signed by Samuel Shiber on March 26, 2004  
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